

Village of Los Lunas



660 Main Street NW P.O. Box 1209
Los Lunas New Mexico 87031
Phone (505) 839-3840 FAX (505) 865-6063

Volume 7 Number 4

August 2003

Village Budget Includes Varied Revenues, Expenses

Revenues for the village's 2003-2004 fiscal year total \$29.1 million which includes the general fund, special revenue fund, enterprise fund and trust and agency fund as well as capital projects fund.

In the general fund municipal departments are:

- Police department with a budget of \$2.3 million for personal services, operating expense and capital outlay.

- Fire department with \$971,000 budgeted including \$305,000 for upgrading the building at Don Diego and Main as well as \$478,036 for personal services.

- Parks and Recreation with \$1.5 million allocated including \$585,032 for capital outlay for general park improvements, grading of softball fields, playground equipment and turf equipment.

- Los Lunas Public Library has a total of \$668,547 which includes \$375,000 for building and parking

improvements.

- The Community Development Department which includes Planning and Zoning, building inspector, animal control and has a 2003-2004 budget of \$610,949.

- Community Services Department which operates the Wellness Center and DWI programs has a 2003-2004 budget of \$299,523.

The village's enterprise funds total approximately \$9 million and include water and sewer funds, meter deposits, solid waste funds, and transportation revenues/expenses.

Trust and agency funds include the Central Solid Waste Authority and approximately \$1.6 million for the Public Housing Authority.

Continued on Page 4

Los Lunas Area Being Considered for New Veterans Cemetery

The Los Lunas area is being considered as a possible site for a new veterans cemetery in New Mexico.

The veterans cemetery in Santa Fe will be at full capacity in about ten years.

The search for a new cemetery site has been narrowed down to three locations — two are in Albuquerque and the third is Los Lunas, east of Interstate 25 and south of Tabet Vista subdivision.

A local committee is actively working on having the cemetery located in Valencia County. Among the projects the committee is working on are a petition drive and a billboard at the proposed site.

Anyone interested in helping with this project can contact Nick Romero, 864-3815; Lillie McNabb, 869-3815; or Joanie Artiaga, 864-6411.



Improvements are planned to the building housing the Los Lunas Fire Department located at Main Street and Don Diego. The building once housed the village's administrative offices.

Infrastructure Plan Includes Many Projects

Every year the village council approves the Local Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan which is a list of projects the council would like to see accomplished in Los Lunas.

Because many of the projects require large sums of money to implement and/or complete, the projects are not always accomplished in the years the council has assigned to a project.

Money for the projects comes from the village budget, state legislative appropriations, grants and federal appropriations.

Projects placed on the fiscal year 2004 "wish list" include North Lentes Road Improvements (\$1.1 million); downtown sewer line project (\$3 million); Carson Drive drainage improvements (\$175,000); Hillside sewer/storm/street/water project (\$4.6 million for both 2004 and 2005); Main Street Fire Station renovations (\$300,000); detailed traffic movement analysis (\$140,000).

Also library enhancement (\$450,000); Heritage Park Improvements (\$325,000 for 2004 and 2005); Daniel Fernandez Youth Center Improvements (\$325,000); storage cover for the Don Pasqual recycling center (\$325,000); east side recycling center (\$100,000); Juan Perea Road sidewalks (\$185,000); Archuleta Building renovation (\$100,000); new transportation building (\$1.2 million); and street repair and replacement (\$150,000).

Projects which are listed for 2005 include street overlays, sidewalks in various places, improvements to Enchantment Little League fields; a study on a new Interstate 25 interchange; various road improvements; Veterans National Cemetery; and Daniel Fernandez Park office complex.

In 2006 possible projects are waste water treatment plant expansion; complying with arsenic requirements in the water system; property acquisition; NM Highway 314 reconstruction; and police department dispatch building expansion.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Louis F. Huning **Mayor**
Councilors

Cecilia CC Castillo *Charles Griego*
Gerard Saiz *Robert Vialpando*

Municipal Judge Jeff Aragon
Village Administrator

Phillip Jaramillo Master Municipal Clerk
Chief of Police Nick Balido

New Phone Numbers For Some Village Offices

A new phone system, along with new phone numbers, have been placed into service at the village's administrative building, fire station, library and other offices located on the west side of the Rio Grande.

These facilities can still be reached using the previous numbers, but the old numbers will eventually be phased out.

New phone numbers include:

Main administrative 839-3840

Library 839-3850

Senior Center 839-3853

Fire department (non emergency) 839-3847

Housing 839-3854

The police department's non-emergency number, 865-9130 will remain the same.

Phone numbers for village offices on the east side of the Rio Grande will remain the same. These include community services, parks and recreation and transportation.

With the transition to the new phone system, you may experience problems reaching someone at a village office. The problems are being ironed out. Village administrators ask the public's patience as the change-over is accomplished.

Attend A Council Meeting!

The Los Lunas Village Council meets twice monthly at the administrative building on Don Pasqual and Main Street. Times and dates are subject to change. Call Debra at 839-3840 to verify. Remaining scheduled 2003 meetings:

August 21 September 4 & 18

October 9 & 23 November 6 & 20

December 11 & 18

Agenda Available on Website Public Comment Welcome

The council agenda may be found on the village's web site, www.ci.los-lunas.nm.us, prior to the meetings.

At the meetings, citizens may address their concerns to the council during the public comment section of the meeting.

New Village Sign Ordinance Now in Effect

A new sign ordinance is in effect in the village after approval of the ordinance by the village council.

The purpose of the new sign ordinance is to:

- Promote and protect the small town atmosphere and historic character of the village while enhancing current commercial development and encouraging new commercial development;
- Encourage safe pedestrian and vehicular activity throughout the village; and
- Improve the appearance of the village.

The new ordinance defines many terms, phrases, words and material associated with signage including banner, beacon, bulletin board, display surface, area, portable sign dealer, real estate sign, roof sign, sign, strip mall and wall sign.

A sign permit must be obtained from the village's zoning enforcement officer with the requisite fee paid before a sign can be installed, repaired, altered, relocated or kept in the village.

No sign permit will be required for the installation of a variety of signs including:

- Building construction signs;
- Real estate signs;
- Signs painted on the exterior surface of a building or structure (there are restrictions on these types of signs);
- Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings and date of installation when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other noncombustible materials;
- Election campaign signs but there are time frames for putting up these signs;
- Directional, identification and informational signs; and
- Subdivision signs.

The ordinance calls for the removal of any sign which no longer advertises a bona fide business or a product sold. Signs in danger of falling or which have become so delapidated to be a menace to the public shall be removed by the owner.

No free-standing sign in a commercial, special use, or industrially zoned district may exceed two hundred square feet in size and exceed twenty feet in height. Maximum

height in residential areas is ten feet.

Also in the ordinance are definitions for roof signs, porch signs, signage in strip malls, projecting signs and temporary portable signs.

Signs which are prohibited and/or restricted are also listed in the ordinance.

All signs in the village shall be installed and constructed, placed and supported in such manner that the signs will not be dangerous to the general public or to surrounding property. The village's zoning enforcement officer will determine that any sign installed, constructed or structurally altered is of such construction and is so supported and installed as to be safe for the area where placed.

2002 Water Quality Report Addendum

The village released the 2002 Water Quality Report in June. The following are corrections to the report as issued—

- Chromium was reported as 0.003 ppb (parts per billion) and should be reported as 0.003 ppm (parts per million).
- The high value of beta/photon emitters was reported as 6.1 pCi/L (picocuries per liter, a measure of radioactivity) and should have been 7.4 pCi/L.
- Radiological samples were taken in the year 2000 as well as 2002.

Infrastructure Work Continues

Work continues on the downtown sewer project as the contractor works this summer in areas where schools or school administrative buildings are located. Work in these areas should be completed by the opening of the school year.

The downtown sewer project involves replacing all sewer lines which are 40 to 50 years old and will include putting in new paving and sidewalks.

WW Construction was awarded the \$1.3 million contract for improvements on North Los Lentes Road to Camino de Higino which includes estate curbs, sewer hookups into side roads and sidewalks on both sides.

The village continues to work with the Environmental Protection Agency on the Luna Hills project.

The equipment for the traffic light at Los Cerritos and Main has been ordered. It is anticipated work will begin in August.

Some Signs Do Not Need A Permit

Water Planning Includes Many Groups

The Village Council recently heard a presentation by the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments about water planning for the Middle Rio Grande Region which is composed of Valencia, Sandoval and Bernalillo counties.

MRCOG and the Water Assembly have been working on developing a water plan. The Water Assembly is composed of diverse water constituency groups who work in teams. MRCOG is composed of governmental entities including municipalities and counties and also has a Water Resources Board.

The groups' focus has been finding the answers to three key questions:

- What is the region's available water supply?

Village Budget . . . Continued from page 1

Capital outlay projects for the village include Luna Hills which involves improving water and sewer in the area south of Main Street and west of the Highline Canal as well as the transportation building project near Highway 314 and Courthouse Road.

Revenues for the village come from a variety of sources such as Gross Receipts Tax, water and sewer billings, solid waste collection, grants, legislative appropriations and property tax.

HAVE YOU ADOPTED A ROADWAY IN LOS LUNAS?

DO IT TODAY!

CALL BETTY BEHREND, UTILITIES DIRECTOR, AT 839-3840

- What is the region's future water demand?
- How will the region undertake to meet demand with supply?

The three questions produce these concerns:

- What actions can be taken?
- Which are acceptable to the community?
- How can they be implemented?

A draft water plan will be available in early September for review at regional open houses. A region-wide workshop will be held in late September.

The water plan is tentatively set to be presented to the village council in late October.

Water is important to everyone in New Mexico. Watch for ongoing information about the water plan.

Annual Trek for Trash Scheduled Sept. 27

The annual Trek for Trash will be Saturday, September 27.

Trek for Trash is part of the Beautification Grant which provides grant monies for hiring summer youth. This summer 18 students were hired for 75 hours each to help clean up areas in the village. But cleaning up the village is continuous.

Be a volunteer and meet at the Village Administration Building at 7 AM September 27 for the Kick Off for the Trek for Trash.

Village Receives 911 Grants

The Village received three grants which will help implement the enhanced 911 system. Enhanced 911 discloses the location of a cell phone when that cell phone is used to call the emergency number.



**SCHOOL'S BACK
IN SESSION!
ALWAYS WATCH
OUT FOR STUDENTS
BE CAREFUL!**